

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated December 10, 2008, claims 1-18 were pending in this application. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 11, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, and 18 stand rejected.

In this Amendment, claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 5, 11 and 17 indicated to be allowable, respectively, and claims 6 and 12 have also been amended only to improve wording. Claims 5, 11 and 17 have been cancelled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, and 18 are now active in this application, of which claims 1, 7, and 13 are independent.

Maintained Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Augsteign et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,883, "Augsteign").

Because of the amendments to claims 1, 7 and 13, this rejection has been rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7 and 13 is respectfully solicited.

Maintained Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 8-10, and 14-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Augsteign in view of IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (NN610843).

Because of the amendments to independent claims 1, 7 and 13, the rejection of claims 2-4, 8-10, and 14-16 respectively depending on claims 1, 7 and 13, has been rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4, 8-10, and 14-16 is respectfully solicited.

New Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 12 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Augusteign in view of Jouppi (U.S. Patent No. 5,386,547).

Because of the amendments to independent claims 1, 7 and 13, the rejection of claims 6, 12 and 18 respectively depending on claims 1, 7 and 13, has been rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 12 and 18 is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

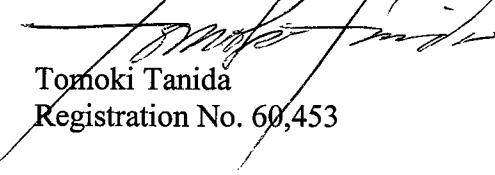
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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